

**Giving Thanks for Deliverance**  
**Gulf Gate Church / 11.30.08 / Will Groben**  
**Thanksgiving, the Pilgrims, and Psalm 118**

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**Psalm 118 [NIV]**

**vv.1-4:** Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let Israel say: "His love endures forever." Let the house of Aaron say: "His love endures forever." Let those who fear the LORD say: "His love endures forever."

† Let God's church say, "His love endures forever!"

**vv.5-9:** In my anguish I cried to the LORD, and he answered by setting me free. The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? The LORD is with me; he is my helper. I will look in triumph on my enemies. It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.

† The Lord has set us free from the power of sin, death, and Hell, so we need not fear anything.

† The Lord has delivered us into the ability to do what is right and so bring glory to him.

† It is better to trust in the ways of the Lord and in his blessing than to walk in the ways of man and seek man's blessing.

**vv.10-14:** All the nations surrounded me, but in the name of the LORD I cut them off. They surrounded me on every side, but in the name of the LORD I cut them off. They swarmed around me like bees, but they died out as quickly as burning thorns; in the name of the LORD I cut them off. I was pushed back and about to fall, but the LORD helped me. The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

† The Lord empowers us to endure all our struggles and to be victorious in some, for which we thank him.

† Even in defeat, we can triumph over evil if we continue to find our strength, joy, identity, and purpose in the Lord.

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**vv.15-21:** Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: "The LORD's right hand has done mighty things! The LORD's right hand is lifted high; the LORD's right hand has done mighty things!" I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done. The LORD has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death. Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter. I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

- † We must learn to depend on God and seek his deliverance instead of relying on our own capabilities.
- † Sometimes the Lord disciplines us to bring us into a more right relationship with him, but he will never turn his back on us.

**vv.22-29:** The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. O LORD, save us; O LORD, grant us success. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you. The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine upon us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give you thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

- † God's love is exhibited by his deliverance in this Psalm. The author remembered one or more times of physical deliverance, and then moved into the spiritual, prophetically mentioning Christ as the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
- † During the time of delay until Christ comes back, we will suffer, but we know we have the ultimate deliverance of salvation in Christ.
- † Jesus is the stone the builders rejected but became the capstone [cornerstone] of the church [Matthew 21:42; Mark 12:10-11; Luke 20:17].

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